r/MauLer • 3 mo. ago
HellbirdIV

When is 'Woke' not Woke?

Discussion

I find it a curious thing.

By now, most people in any way engaged with online discourse around media have at least some perception of what it means to call a work 'Woke'. We're no doubt all fairly familiar with the extremes of this sentiment, that anything containing anything even slightly more tolerant and diverse than the KKK is 'Woke Shit' and destroying Western civilization, but I intentionally made this post on this sub because I tend to expect a slightly more balanced view from MauLer's audience.

I find that many people who both condemn and praise 'Wokeness' will struggle to define the meaning of it in detail or - more notably - fail to present an adequate explanation for why something they genuinely like 'doesn't count' despite meeting or not meeting the criteria they would usually use to define 'Woke'.

I personally am not terribly opposed to most of the ideas that usually get passed around as 'Woke', but I still find a deep revulsion to most 'Woke' media all the same, because frankly it's genuinely just kind of terrible. But is that really all there is to it? Is the distinction between 'Woke Shit' and 'Not Woke Shit' not the

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doomzday_96 • 3 mo. ago

I define Woke as, generally left leaning media where the desire to be progressive overshadows and overtakes a work's story, or even the message, or just tries to present many examples of left leaning ideaology, even when it doesn't make sense.

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NorthInium • 3 mo. ago

Just take Wall-E as an example its a childrens movie primarily focused on children the story does involve some heavy themes of consumerism, capitalism etc. but you are not whacked with it every single second in the movie.

Star Trek was also a good example heavy themes but never whacked over your head.

and so many other examples from a more simpler time. They critiqued things in a way that is lost to time and only rarely finds its way back. The main story was never butchered established characters never disrespected and they still got the message in that the writers wanted to convey.

Then we prominetly have the works from Disney recently where you are constantly whacked with a message over and over again to the point that there is no story, no development and just a circle jerk of the writers sucking eachother off.

There is no substance established characters get nerfed and sidelined in their own story in favour of new stronger female versions.

So yeah woke is not woke when the story doesnt suffer from it and you are not whacked with the messaging each and every minute of that movie.

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traveler5150 • 3 mo. ago

The difference is how much they bang your head with the wokeness. Can a film be great and have woke messages? Of course. However, what makes a movie/ tv show woke is how over the top they go with it. Does Breaking Bad have some woke themes about health care and who gets the best treatment? Sure but that is just a tiny tiny tiny message of it. They didn't have Walter say it every episode; they barely even mention it and it is in the subtext of certain scenes. A woke show would have characters say "Why can't the US have the Canadian health care system? We should have moved to Canada" every episode.

They would have also had no Latinos be the bad guy because they could never be bad. Gus Fring would have been straight because no gay person could ever be bad.

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afterthought and so suffers. something becomes not woke when its clear the writers want to tell a story and the characters make sense. Arcane comes to mind as an example of not woke, it has diversity, lgbtq, and multiple female leads and nobody called it woke. Its because the characters make sense and the story was put first. Theres tons of examples of woke, majority being from Disney. Character's races changed, European kingdoms suddenly being multi-cultural, lgbt kissing forced into the stories, etc.

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CreamySheevPalpatin • 3 mo. ago

woke comes from the assumption that people around you are asleep and you need to wake them up by bringing up social issues that you think are important, so from the get go the woke person is obnoxious self-rightous bafoon that looks downwards on others, thinking they are lesser than him cause he has superior knowledge which they lack. It may go to the point that man feminist would be outraged at woman that think that they are fine and not opressed and white "ally" belittling black person if such says that he fells no racism towards himself. Woke culture needs to die and there is no good wokeness.

Woke is also very confrontational, it's never satisfied with what it gets. Many have commited a mistake of apologising to woke, woke is never satisfied with aplogogies, it wants to humilitae and belittle people that it thinks are inferior to it, essentially creating a system of opression. The system out of which are born such brilliant lines as "you can't be racist towards white person", "man cannot be opressed by default" - so no matter how harsh treatment of woke enemies are - they are not considered victims to the point that woke person would consider woman's death a tragedy while man's death as "serves him right".

All in all, it's toxic movement that undermined ideas of tolerance and well-behaviour towards others. Old good Christian "do to others how you want to be treated yourself" turned into fascistic special Olympics when the farther away you are from the norm - the more priveleged you should be.. or else.

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CaptainTryk • 3 mo. ago • Edited 3 mo. ago

Woke is woke when you see ghosts everywhere and make excuses for immoral shit because the ones you like are doing it. Denial is also a big thing.

This goes for both woke people on the left and red pillers on the right. Ironically, red pill is basically just another term for being woke. Bet that's a hard pill for some of them to swallow huehuehue.

But yeah, if you see race and sex and whatever everywhere and you either ignore or make excuses for bad takes or bad behavior on "your side", then you are woke.

There are people with woke tendencies, but they can still snap out of it and be critical and they can discern when something isn't racist or sexist or whatever. They are still capable of rational discussion with others and they aren't completely demonizing their supposed opposition.

The line between being woke and just having woke tendencies is a muddled one because that transformation doesn't happen over night. It comes gradually if you either give in to the woke shit or if you try to phase out of it.

I think most people go through phases like that. Not all go to the extremes, but everybody dances with ideas that challenge them and try to figure out where they stand in all of this mess.

I know I sure did. I have danced with both the left and the right and the middle and I know where I stand with my thoughts and ideas. I think that a healthy mind is a little bit all over the place. Some ideas are center, some are to the right, others to the left. A few are to the extremes in either direction, but it all culminates in a pretty balanced person who hasn't fallen into the group think trap. Or at least try to avoid it as much as possible. Bit hard to completely avoid that shit when you're born a social animal. So eh.

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AlphaDeltaCentauri • 3 mo. ago

shouldn't be at fault for. There's some good reviews that go into a number of issues, and an artist behind it even chimed in to say the team had offered criticism to the directors, but the directors were busy with other things and ignored rewriting the scripts in order to merchandise and promote the content.

So when the episode released, the plot was essentially shitty friends are jealous the new light-skinned black student is immediately interested in Zoe, they assume it's because he's into white girls and racially motivated, and it revolves the friend group bashing Zoe as the bad one even though half the other girls already have boyfriends. The end of the story arc is Zoe breaking up with the new student and he immediately moves on to another white girl. Then they all become friends again, even though the friend group is extremely harmful to primarily Zoe and Penny throughout the show.

And another very easy one is whenever the studio either promotes or an actor/producer decides to throw in their two cents independently on what the film means to them. Half the time they spout something that's entirely separated from the character they play and it can possibly tarnish the whole thing. The fun of-say Barbie is how Ryan Gosling is just playing into his character in every promotional event. It just adds another reason people love Ken the most out of the film.

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Ralman23 • 3 mo. ago • Edited 3 mo. ago

So, I wrote a similar comment (See: https://www.reddit.com/r/MauLer/comments/11dou3a/thoughts/jaamel6/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=ios_app&utm_name=iossmf&context=3).

Adding onto the comment, what woke is (and I should've explained this better in the comment) that it focuses more on messages than storytelling. For example, look up any clip of the CW Supergirl and there you go. When the writers want to tackle a topic, but do it in a "on the nose" fashion that it just ends up looking a parody. This is why in this sub, we tend to emphasize show, don't tell. Basically, there's a right way to tackle serious topics to something that's so outlandish and not good. Another clarification I might add is this:

-Most woke shows have millennial writing (see my linked comment for the video); it's almost like a tumblr fanfic, but there can be exceptions to this (My Adventures With Superman technically has this writing style, but it somehow works and that's another topic in itself)

-A lot of them typically tend to be left-leaning (right-leaning stuff like some of Frank Miller's comics tend do this and has been called out for it), while there's nothing wrong with having politics in your story you're going to have make sure it's not so on the nose.

-I may have said in the linked comment, but I guess I can add onto it more. A majority of woke media tend to shame the main character (mostly males) into thinking they were wrong or use another character to tell that why they're wrong because politics instead of actually letting characters grow, develop, and go into a thought-provoking discussion, but no the writer just wants to talk about how they feel about this subject (because we clearly haven't seen enough of that on Twitter /s)

-Last point, and I'll use CW Supergirl show as an example (apologies) for whatever reason in woke shows, all the characters have the same politics like in one episode Winn talks with his friends of how in the 31st Century hate speech laws is the law and that's treated as a good thing by everyone in the show??? It was brief, but I caught it and just rolled my eyes at the mention. At least in season 3 of the show when they were tackling gun control only one of the characters disagreed with another about it, only for it to get ruined by the ending and season that the entire military and DEO got rid of their guns in exchange for alien weapons, which I don't see how that helped them at all...

But anyhow like others have said, there's nothing with trying to do social commentary in your story but at least make it good!

Edit: replaced a verb.

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AceKnight1 • 3 mo. ago

Copypasta of the definition I use. (1) So what is 'woke'? The most concise definition I have come across is the belief that society is split into oppressor and oppressed groups, defined by race, class, gender, and other factors. These distinctions are backed by a larger power structure that those in privilege are likely to be unaware of. As such, the lived experiences of marginalised people must be heeded in order to uproot such injustice.

(2)

Wokeism is the ethics and processes of socialism, expanded beyond class struggle, to include race stuggle, gender struggle, sexual struggle, and any other near-infinite number of marginalized groups as defined by intersectionality.

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Moriartis • 3 mo. ago

A good example is the Barbie film being so obsessed with its messaging that it accidentally gets celebrated as being based because no one can agree on what the film maker actually wanted to get across, it's a perfect example of something being woke. The film was still well produced, and had good comedy bits and good performances, but the writing of the film is completely asinine and half the people who watch it will think it has powerful feminist messaging and the other half will think it's a brilliant takedown of feminist ideology. All you have to do to know the truth is look at the directors comments on their decisions to know that any critique of feminist ideology is entirely accidental.

So a film can entirely consist of trans black women overthrowing a capitalist patriarchy, but if the creators actually put work into making the characters human and relatable, the dialogue touching and profound and the events flow logically and the moments feel earned, too the point to where they clearly cared more about the story and characters than they did the message, no one will call it woke. However, the more ideology becomes the purpose of the work, the harder that is to pull off. The quality, or lack thereof, is the real problem, but the reason it's the problem is because of the prioritization of woke ideology in the creative process.

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